

# Lucky Dog Humane Education

## Activity – Getting to Know an Unfamiliar Classmate

### Aligns to the following Common Core Standards for K-5

(ELA = English Language Arts)

! **ELA Speaking and Listening** - Standards 1, 2 & 3

### Aligns to Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

! **Self Awareness:** Identifying emotions, thoughts and values

! **Self Management:** Self-discipline - Impulse control

! **Social Awareness:** Perspective-talking - Empathy - Respect for others - Diversity

! **Relationship Skills:** Communication - Relationship building

! **Responsible Decision-making:** Identifying problems - Analyzing situations - Solving Problems - Ethical responsibility - Reflecting

**OBJECTIVE:** To inspire children to feel compassion and empathy by asking them to get to know a classmate who they are unfamiliar with. To build mutual respect in the classroom and increase inclusion of others

**PREPARATION:** Teacher or Presenter will lead a discussion that includes reading the Book *A Different Little Doggy* By Heather Whittaker. This will give students a basic understanding of diversity and the importance of being you & accepting others

### **METHOD:**

- Lucky Dog H.E. presenters (or classroom teacher) will use a combined PAWfessor visit, PowerPoint/Video and Storybook presentation, accompanied by posters, puppets, and props – The children will be introduced things that make people and animals truly special. (being a good listener, making others feel important, being unique)

- Presenters will leave expansion activities for the classroom. These activities will help teachers promote compassion for animals and compassion in the classroom. They will also inspire children to understand that they, too, can participate in positive change for shelter animals, stray animals, and pet overpopulation as well as be part of a positive environment for their peers.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

After participating in the Inclusion and Diversity lesson and story, the classroom teacher will lead a discussion on reasons to celebrate diversity, why it is important for “me to be ME and you to be YOU”. The teacher will read the book *All Kinds of Children* - by Norma Simon, then facilitate a team building “unity circle” to get to know something new about each other. The teacher will then assign pairs of students who are unfamiliar with one another and give them time and space to interview one another. (See sample interview questionnaire in resources) They will then be assigned the following tasks: 1. Planning an activity the partners would enjoy doing together 2. Planning an act of kindness to do together 3. Figuring out the pet that would best fit their partners personality and lifestyle

### **Materials:**

Paper, Pens, “Getting to Know You” questionnaire.

**Concepts:** Teaching acceptance of diversity, inclusion, empathy and compassion. Teaching the importance of being kind.

**CONCLUSION:** Have pairs take turns telling the class something positive they discovered about their partner, and reporting on their 3 assigned tasks.